

## Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Copies to 17470, MGEV, Finance, CALL Orig to Howp Established by the Treaty of June 9, 1855

April 27, 2005

Amber Parara
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Oregon Operations Office
811 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor
Portland, OR 97204

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Ms. Parara,

We are writing to express the Confederated Tribes & Bands of the Yakama Nation support for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's Watershed Restoration Support and Development Program. We understand that the Commission is applying for a renewal of the EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) grant that supports this program, and we strongly urge you to approve this renewal.

Watershed restoration is a high priority of the Confederated Tribes & Bands of the Yakama Nation. Continuing to increase the scientific and technical capacity of the tribes will help us to achieve this end. In 2000, CRITFC hired a Water Quality Coordinator to provide technical assistance to the tribes. This increased technical capacity aids the tribes in their efforts to fulfill the goals of the tribal restoration plan, Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit, Spirit of the Salmon. In addition, ongoing support in funding, coordination, partnership building, project development and community outreach and education, have contributed significantly to our watershed and water quality restoration efforts over the last three years.

As our salmon runs continue to decline, it is more important than ever that we draw on state-of-the-art science to return our watersheds to the healthy, functioning ecosystems that they once were. The Commission's Watershed Restoration Support and Development Program help us continue to increase the technical capacity of the tribes in order to do accomplish this goal.

Watershed restoration is a critical component of salmon recovery. This program offers EPA an opportunity to assist the Confederated Tribes & Bands of the Yakama Nation, as well as the other three Columbia River Treaty Tribes, in achieving our goal of restoring healthy and abundant salmon populations to the Columbia River Basin.

Sincerely.

Jerry Meninick

Chairman, Tribal Council

Yakama Nation

JM/dlj



Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Established by the Treaty of June 9, 1855

## RESOLUTION

T-094-05

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation is a federally recognized Nation pursuant to the Treaty of 1855 (12 Stat. 951), and

WHEREAS, the Yakama Tribal Council is the governing body of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation by the authority delegated by Resolution T-38-56, and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation supports the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's use of United States Environmental Protection Agency General Assistance Program (GAP) fimds to provide technical assistance to the tribe, consistent with the Tribal Restoration Plan, Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit, in order to restore anadromous fish in the Columbia River Basin;

WHEREAS, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation supports the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission receiving funds through the GAP grant program to continue the planning coordination, and implementation of Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit, to provide technical assistance for the implementation of Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit and to assist in the identification, solicitation and procurement of funds for the tribal restoration program and Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit;

WHEREAS, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation supports the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission applying for and receiving these funds each year for the next four years, beginning with the fiscal year 2006 funds and continuing through the fiscal year 2009 funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Executive Board of the Yakama Tribal Council, acting under authority delegated by Section III A of the Rules of Procedures, approved by Yakama Tribal Council Resolution T-10-61, dated July 13, 1960, and meeting at the Governmental Headquarters of the Yakama Nation, hereby authorizes the Executive Director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to submit a grant proposal to the United States Environmental Protection Agency General Assistance Program this year and until further notice to be used to develop tribal capacity to plan, coordinate, and implement watershed and habitat restoration activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any member of the Yakama Tribal Council Executive Board is authorized to negotiate and execute any agreements and amendments thereof, on behalf of the Yakama Tribal Council, as delegated by Section III A of the Rules of Procedures pursuant to T-10-61, as approved, provided further that any Executive Board Member may negotiate the contract.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Yakama Nation does not waive, alter, or otherwise diminish its Sovereign Immunity, whether expressed or implied, by virtue of this contract for any and all administrative or legal action which may arise directly or indirectly from the same, nor does the Yakama Nation waive, alter, or otherwise diminish its rights, privileges, remedies or services guaranteed by the Treaty of 1855.